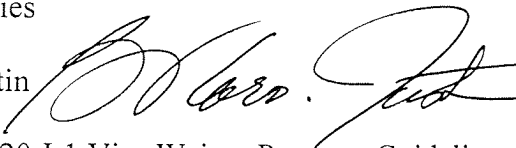




1500 East Main Street Suite 227 Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 786-4891 FAX (804) 371-0116

May 23, 2000

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: B.A. Caro-Justin 
RE: Virginia State 20 J-1 Visa Waiver Program Guidelines

The Commonwealth of Virginia, through the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), is committed to assuring that all Virginians have access to primary health care. The Commonwealth has utilized the J-1 Visa Waiver Program as a tool to assist communities in their recruitment efforts when an American physician cannot be recruited to work in a particular health professional shortage area (HPSA). The Conrad State 20 Program expands the options states have to recruit IMGs. Public Law 103-416 permits state Departments of Health to request waivers, without the assistance of a federal government agency. VDH supports the recruitment of international medical graduates (IMGs) requesting the assistance of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) in obtaining waivers for physicians who hold J-1 Visas.

Effective July 27 1998, The United States Department of State requires a "user" fee of \$136 from each applicant (exchange visitor) for processing. Additional information and a copy of the FEDERAL REGISTER notice are enclosed in the guidelines. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) will not begin to process the waiver recommendation until the exchange visitor has sent the payment, the completed Data Sheet application, and the two self-addressed stamped, legal-size envelopes (S.A.S.E.) envelopes directly to the United States Department of State. Once the requested materials are received, the Waiver Review Division will send the applicant a case number and instruction sheet on how to proceed with the application under the basis designated on the Data Sheet application. **Once the case number is received, it must be written on all future correspondence with the Waiver Review Division and with the application to the Virginia Center for Primary Care and Rural Health.**

Enclosed are the Virginia State 20 and ARC J-1 Visa Waiver Program Guidelines as well as the Federal procedures for waiver application. For additional information on the federal requirements, please see the U.S. State Department website at <http://travel.state.gov/jvw.html>. The Virginia Department of Health, Center for Primary Care and Rural Health (CPRRH), has been given the responsibility of reviewing and evaluating all J-1 Visa Waiver requests. Applications should be submitted to:

B.A. Caro-Justin
Center for Primary Care and Rural Health
Virginia Department of Health
1500 East Main Street, Suite 227
Richmond, VA 23219

Please submit an original and one copy per the enclosed guidelines.